

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Carrithers on 12/10/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 5:

In line 8, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

In line 9, "toward the a center" is changed to ---toward a center---.

In lines 9-10, "each of said pull tabs" is changed to ---a portion of each of said tabs---.

Claim 7:

In line 2, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

Claim 8:

In line 2, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

Claim 9:

In lines 2 and 3, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

Claim 11:

In line 2, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

Claim 29:

In line 1, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

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Claim 30:

In line 1, "pull tabs" is changed to ---tabs---.

Claim 33:

In line 9, "pull tab" is changed to ---tab---.

In line 10 "toward the a center" is changed to ---toward a center--- and "said at least one pull tabs" is changed to ---a portion of said at least one tab---.

Claim 39:

In line 1, "pull tab" is changed to ---tab---.

Claim 42:

In line 11, "cutting a through" is changed to ---cutting through---.

In lines 11-12, "said tab bending" is changed to ---a portion of said tab bending---.

In line 14, In line 1, "pull tab" is changed to ---tab---.

The above changes were made to clearly distinguish the claimed invention from that of Agar (5,632,128) and of Cox et al (5,435,111). The claims as amended now recite that tab is formed on a plate to form a portion extending toward a center portion of the outer face of the plate, a portion extending toward an inner face of the plate to form a spike, and a window, whereas the plates of Agar and Cox et al fail to teach a tab that only extends in a direction toward the inner face to form a spike and a window.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEXANDER P. TAOUSAKIS whose telephone number is (571)272-3497. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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